



A Homeowner's Guide to Storm Water Management Designs

Introduction

Following our recent bulletin about Low Impact Development, many Goddard community members requested additional information geared towards homeowners and how they can retrofit their landscaping to improve water quality. The focus of this bulletin is to find low cost landscaping features that can manage storm water and improve storm water quality.

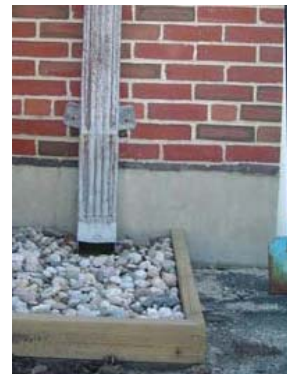


Rain Barrels

Rain Barrels are relatively simple structures designed to collect and hold water runoff from roof tops. By collecting rain runoff from roof tops, the water can be stored easily for later use. Watering lawns and gardens with the stored rain water ensures that the water is filtered through a natural system. Using a rain barrel conserves potable water and reduces the amount of polluted storm water runoff from impervious surface (like roof tops).

Dry Wells

Dry Wells are small, excavated pits, filled with stone, gravel, and/or rocks. They can vary in size and depth, and are intended to hold storm water temporarily to allow the water to infiltrate the ground. This improves groundwater supplies, and reduces the amount of water that runs off and discharges to the storm drains.



Backyard Streams

For homeowners with backyard streams, a vegetative buffer zone should be allowed to form. The broader the vegetative zone, the more filtration can occur before entering the stream system.



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Rain Gardens

Rain Gardens are a great way to filter storm water runoff from your property naturally. They are depressed areas that are converted to gardens containing native plants. Rain gardens add a beautiful element to your landscaping, and also facilitate the infiltration of storm water into the ground. This filters the water to reduce storm water pollutants, and allows groundwater resurgence. The native plants from a rain garden require less maintenance than conventional lawns and they provide habitats for wildlife.

Wildflower Meadows

Wildflower Meadows are a beautiful addition to a homeowner's property. Meadows filter storm water runoff and require almost no maintenance beyond choosing the appropriate site location.



For Additional Information

<http://www.epa.gov/nps/>

<http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/ESD/pdf/Garden.pdf>

http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/pubs/LID_National_Manual.pdf



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